

Submitted May 16, 2013
Approved May 16, 2013

MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING NO. 05-2013
Thursday, April 18, 2013

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened in regular session in the Mayor and Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 18, 2013.

PRESENT: Craig Moloney, Chair; Anita Neal Powell, Rob Achtmeyer, Jessica Reynolds,
Joseph Hansen

Present: Debra Yerg Daniel, City Attorney
Payman Tehrani, Sr. Assistant Attorney
Susan Swift, Director CPDS
Jim Wasilak, Chief of Planning
Robin Ziek, Preservation Planner

EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

A. HDC2013- 00611, 628 Great Falls Road, Richard Ward, evaluate historic significance of existing residence.

Robin Ziek presented the staff report and answered questions from the Board. She recommended historic designation on the basis of Criteria I-C, II-A, and II-E for the reasons cited in the staff report.

The following residents spoke regarding the historic designation of 628 Great Falls Road:

Richard J. Ward (1102 Prospect Hill Place) stated that he nominated 628 Great Falls Road because it is the “Gateway” into the West End of Rockville and that a historic designation would improve the houses’ chances of survival.

Jody Kline of the law firm of Miller, Miller and Canby spoke on behalf of the owner/applicant, stating that the applicant prefers the property not be designated, because of the potential cost historic designation involves. He said that the applicant is involved in a redevelopment process and believes the house does not meet the criteria for a historic building. Mr. Kline answered questions from the HDC.

Robin Corridon (433 Winding Rose Drive) spoke in favor of the historic designation of 628 Great Falls stating that the residential approach in the City has diminished and would like this gateway property be preserved “as is”.

Marcia Douma (616 Great Falls Road) is in support of the historic designation, stating that the property has characteristics as a “gateway” property to the West End. She is concerned that her own property won’t be recognized as an historic property if 628 doesn’t receive historic designation.

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Regina Schaefer (5 Mojave Court) spoke in favor of designating the property as historic.

Noreen Bryan (207 South Washington Street and President of the West End Citizens Association) spoke in favor of designating 628 Great Falls Road as an historic property, stating that it is part of Rockville's residential history. She also stated the property is part of the black kinship community and deserves further research.

Mary van Balgooy (Executive Director of Peerless Rockville) spoke in favor of designation of 628 Great Falls Road, noting that the property does meet Rockville's criteria for historic designation and embodies distinct characteristics of type, period and method of construction, and the property sits on one of the main gateways into the City.

Jim Coyle (14 Fire Princess Court) spoke in favor of the historic designation as it is the "Gateway" into the West End neighborhood.

Robert Ramsburg (14150 Glen Mill Road), former member of the Jehovah's Witness Congregation in Rockville, stated that when they purchased the house it was run down and overgrown, and many improvements were made to make the house liveable for their missionaries. Mr. Ramsburg is not in favor of the historic designation of the house.

Diane Hack Gould (1102 Prospect Hill Place) stated she favors designation.

Christopher Nurse (207 Evans Street) said that he is in support of the historic designation of this property because it is a "Gateway" property.

Patricia Woodward (111 North Van Buren Street) spoke in support of designating this property.

Marian Hull (529 Bent Road) stated that she supports the designation; to keep its historic presence.

Susan Prince (206 Evans Street) said that she echoes all of the previous comments in support of the historic designation of 628 Great Falls Road and stated that the house represents a time gone by and should be preserved.

Nadia Azumi (6 Nocturne Court) supports historic designation of the property; for its historic heritage.

Lori Glattly (205 South Washington Street) supports designation; for its "gateway" significance.

Chair Moloney closed the Public Record. The HDC considered the materials provided and the testimony given.

Commissioner Achtmeyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Hansen, to recommend historic designation of 628 Great Falls Road, in that it meets HDC criteria I-C, II-A, and II-E. The motion passed 4-0-1. (Commissioner Neal-Powell abstained.)